

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No.

M: 31-6-3

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic **THE WALKER HOUSE**

other

### 2. Location

street and number **10541 CONNECTICUT AVENUE** (formally 10422 Armory Avenue) ☐ not for publication

city, town **KENSINGTON** ☐ vicinity

county **MONTGOMERY**

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name **SAFEWAY STORES 98 INC c/o CPTS STORE 0895**

street and number **1371 OAKLAND BLVD STE 200** telephone **301-918-6661**

city, town **WALNUT CREEK** state **CA** zip code **94596-4357**

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. **Montgomery County Judicial Center** liber **19710** folio **638**

city, town (R B Detricks of) **KENSINGTON** tax map **HP43** tax parcel (Subdiv.15 Blk1 Lot 18) tax ID number **03534795** (District 13)

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
- ☒ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- ☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- ☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- ☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
- ☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<b>1x</b>
buildings		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
structures		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
Total		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources  
previously listed in the Inventory

0

## 7. Description

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### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### SUMMARY

The Walker House is a three-bay, two-and-a-half-story, Federal-Revival house built in 1923. It features a gable-roof front porch, a small shed dormer on front slope of the roof, an original rear wing, and an original porch (now enclosed) projecting from the northwest corner. It also has a c. 1955 wing extending off the north side.

### DESCRIPTION

Note: This description was prepared from photographs and some details could not be verified.

The Walker House faces east, toward the Kensington Historic District commercial area, and is similar in setback and spacing to the other structures in the district. The building sits on a lot with a small front yard and with a paved walkway connecting to the public sidewalk. A chain-link fence runs beside the public sidewalk, and a hedgerow parallels the fence along the inside. Large shrubs sit beneath the front windows of the house, and a mature red maple tree shades the front yard. Some of the plantings are said to date from the 1920s.

The Federal-Revival structure is a three-bay, two-and-a-half-story, double-pile, center-passage house, with a side-gable roof featuring a small shed dormer on the front slope. A later, one-story addition extends from the south gable end. A shallow wing projects from the rear, or west side, covering the northern and central bays. A small enclosed porch, now enclosed, wraps around the northwest corner. The house appears to sit on a poured-concrete or block-with-concrete-stucco foundation, and is sheathed with horizontal siding, although the material could not be verified.

The east, or front, façade is three bays on the first story and four on the second. The first story features a center door sheltered by a barrel-vaulted porch with a front-gable roof supported by two columns. Twelve-over-twelve windows fill the end bays. The four second-story bays also contain twelve-over-twelve windows. All of the windows on both stories have louvered shutters. A simple box cornice finishes the foot of the shallow, wood shingle roof. A small shed dormer breaks the front slope of the roof at the centerline and contains a pair of three-over-three fixed-pane windows.

A one-story addition (c. 1955) extends from the south gable end and is covered with a shallow hipped roof. The east side of this wing (facing front) contains one centered eight-over-eight window with louvered shutters (one now missing). The wing extends the full depth of the house, but features only a pair of eight-over-eight windows with shutters; the windows sit off center toward the front. The west, or rear, façade of the wing is obscured by plantings, so no description can be given.

The south gable end of the main block has a small exterior chimney centered on the elevation; it passes through a deep overhanging eave and terminates with a corbelled cap. The second floor of the south end features two twelve-over-twelve windows. There are no shutters, although it appears that pintles are in place to receive them. Two small, four-over-four attic windows flank the chimney in the upper gable.

The west, or rear, elevation of the main block features a very shallow, two-bay, one-story wing with a hipped roof; the wing covers the center and left bays of the elevation. The south bay of the first floor of the main block is pierced by paired, six-over-six windows. The second story of the main block has two asymmetrically-placed windows, both with louvered shutters. The window to the right is larger, twelve-over-twelve; the window to the left is smaller, perhaps six-over-six (photo unclear). The shortening of this second-story window indicates that the wing is original. The west side of the wing contains paired, one-over-one windows, set off-center, with shutters. The south side of the wing appears to have a door, although the photograph is not clear. The north side of the addition was not visible.

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The north side of the house has a small off-center chimney, shifted to the rear; it passes through the deep eave of the rear roof slope and terminates in a corbelled cap. The first floor features two twelve-over-twelve windows in the left and center bays, both to the front of the chimney. A twelve-over-twelve window occupies the left bay of the second floor, and a smaller window occupies the right bay, to the rear of the chimney; the center bay of the second floor is empty. A smallish, one-over-one window occupies the center of the upper gable. None of the window on this elevation have shutters on place, although they do have pintles.

A projecting structure wraps around the northwest corner to the rear. It is built on piers and has a hipped roof. The walls are enclosed with horizontal siding, with windows occupying the upper parts of the walls beneath the eaves. One window is in the east wall; two sliding windows are in the north wall; the west wall was not visible. This structure appears to be an original porch that was enclosed.

## 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
___	1600-1699	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ health/medicine	___ performing arts
___	1700-1799	___ archeology	___ education	___ industry	___ philosophy
___	1800-1899	<u>x</u> architecture	___ engineering	___ inventions	___ politics/government
<u>X</u>	1900-1999	___ art	___ entertainment	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___	2000-	___ commerce	___ recreation	___ science	
	___ communications	___ ethnic heritage	___ literature	<u>X</u> social history	
	___ community planning	___ exploration/ settlement	___ maritime history	___ transportation	
	___ conservation		___ military	___ other: _____	

Specific dates 1923, 1955 Architect/Builder \_\_\_\_\_

Construction dates 1923

Evaluation for:

\_\_\_ National Register

\_\_\_ Maryland Register

x not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SIGNIFICANCE:

### SUMMARY

The Walker House records the life of William and Jeannie Walker, who were early fixtures in the 1920s historic Kensington commercial district. Mr. Walker ran a sheet metal business known as "Walker's Cornice, Tinning, and Heating." They built their Federal Revival home next door at 10422 Armory Avenue in 1923. Built as the last house on old Connecticut Avenue and at the junction of the trolley and the B&O Railroad, its location on Armory Avenue (old Connecticut Avenue) is both contiguous and across the street from the currently intact Kensington Historic District. Although this Federal Revival House (1923) is later than turn-of-the-century-houses whose first lots were plotted and sold by developer Brainard Warner in 1890 as a "garden community concept," the Walker House is none-the-less an important architectural asset that reflects the complete evolution of architectural styles of this Historic District. The original 1906 building of "Walker's Cornice, Tinning and Heating" added a second floor and covered its clapboard walls with masonry in about 1945. At this time the Walker lot was subdivided and one parcel sold to Philip and Margaret McCurdy. While the surrounding commercial development changed, the Walker Residence did not. Significant changes have occurred since the early period of the Walker residence, but the unique elements of their home contribute to the developmental history of a small town. Specifically, the Walker residence and business provides a template for the building footprint, compatible scale, materials and colors that unify the community's historic commercial and residential character.

### HISTORY IN NARRATIVE DISCUSSION (1/3)

"HISTORY OF 10422 ARMORY AVENUE, KENSINGTON, MARYLAND, THE WALKER HOUSE"

The Walker house sits on part of lot eighteen, formally part of lot six in block one of R.B. Detrick's 1892 subdivision. Lot six was originally part of lots 21, 22, and 23 in the estate of Luraner Knowles (widow of George Knowles). Tax records list a construction date of 1928, however, the house was actually built in 1923. The style of the house is Federal Revival. Although it pre-dates most nearby commercial properties in the Kensington Historic District proper, it was not included when the district's boundaries were drawn. By comparison to other buildings on the same street, the nearby Esso gas station was built in 1927 and the Armory building was built in 1926.

William Frederick Walker was born in the District of Columbia around 1877. In the 1880 census, it lists a William Walker, age 3, living with his divorced mother Louisa in the home of his uncle William H. Arneith.

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Mr. Arneth's occupation was listed as "Tinner." In 1922, Mr. Walker married a local Kensington girl named Jeanette Elizabeth Palmer, born around 1901. Jeanette grew up around the corner.

The newlyweds, Mr. and Mrs. Walker, took out a mortgage for Lot 6 in January 1923 on the edge of the commercial area and right next to the streetcar line serving downtown Washington, DC. The house was a wedding present to the new bride. Before the house was built, the only improvement on the lot was a one storey building on the northeast corner of Connecticut and Howard. (the clock building at 10426 Armory Avenue). Mr. Walker operated his business called "Walker's Cornice, Tinning, and Heating" out of the corner building. Commuting to work was a matter of stepping out his front door and walking a few feet.

Mr. Walker was a skilled craftsman who fashioned metal roofs for many local buildings, including some of the structures at the Forest Glen Seminary.

Jeanette was Mr. Walker's second wife and he had a daughter by a previous marriage. The 1930 census shows the age at early marriage listed for William as 27 and for Jeanette as 21. William was born in Washington D.C. as was his mother. Jeanette was born in Maryland as were her parents. His occupation was listed as "contractor" in the "sheet metal" industry.

You can imagine that a city dweller in Washington D.C. who wished to go for a nice drive in the country might have cruised north all the way up Connecticut Avenue from the city. They would have passed through Chevy Chase, then rolling countryside, over Rock Creek and into the quaint Town of Kensington via today's Armory Avenue, then Connecticut Avenue. For many years, the Walker house was the very last house on the left side of Connecticut Avenue before the road dead ended at the Howard Avenue commercial area near the trolley tracts and the B&O Railroad.

In 1934, planning was ongoing to close the nearby Kensington railroad grade crossing and construct a bridge over the B&O Railroad tracts at Lincoln Avenue. The land records show a sliver of land on the north side of lot 6 acquired from the Walkers by the state roads commission.

Mr. Walker's properties also appear on a 1936 water and sewer survey. The residence had an address of 7 Connecticut Avenue. The survey lists that the Walkers had a dog and a phone number of "3." "Walker's Cornice, Tinning and Heating" next door at 3 Connecticut Avenue also appeared on the survey. No phone number appeared on the survey. Under resident complaints the survey lists "refuse from loafing coons, stagnant drain at Esso."

In 1942, land records show the property transferred to a Mr. Green and back to the Walkers on the same day. This may have been for financial or estate planning purposes.

In 1945, The Walker's subdivided their lot and sold off the corner commercial building (10426 Armory Avenue) to Phillip and Margaret McCurdy. The tax records list this building as having been built in 1906. It appears in a well-known 1928 photo as a one-storey building. At some point, it was bumped up to a two-story masonry building.

An invalid in his later years, Mr. Walker passed away in May 1948 at about age 71.

The house has been altered little from its construction in the early 1920's. The garage and the first floor room on the right are original. The one story addition on the left was built in 1955 to house Mrs. Walker's nephew George while he attended college after returning from service in the Korean War. Some of the landscaping plants are original. Inside the house, there are hardwood floors. The staircase has an unusual curved shape. Mrs. Walker kept a 22 rifle to shoot at rats in her yard. There is a bullet hole in the landing from when Mrs. Walker's gun once accidentally discharged!

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Sources of Information  
Montgomery County Land Records  
Kensington Historical Society Archives  
Maryland state tax records  
Vision of Kensington

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 5,495 SF  
Acreage of historical setting 5495 SF  
Quadrangle name Kensington

Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The Walker House sits on part of lot 6 of block 1 of R.B. detrick's 1892 subdivision. The lot was combined with other in 2006 to create lot 18.

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Joan McQueeney Mitric	Section 7: Thomas Reinhart, Maryland Historical Trust
organization		date June 7, 2006
street & number	3304 Edgewood Road	telephone 301-993-3042
city or town	Kensington	state Maryland

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

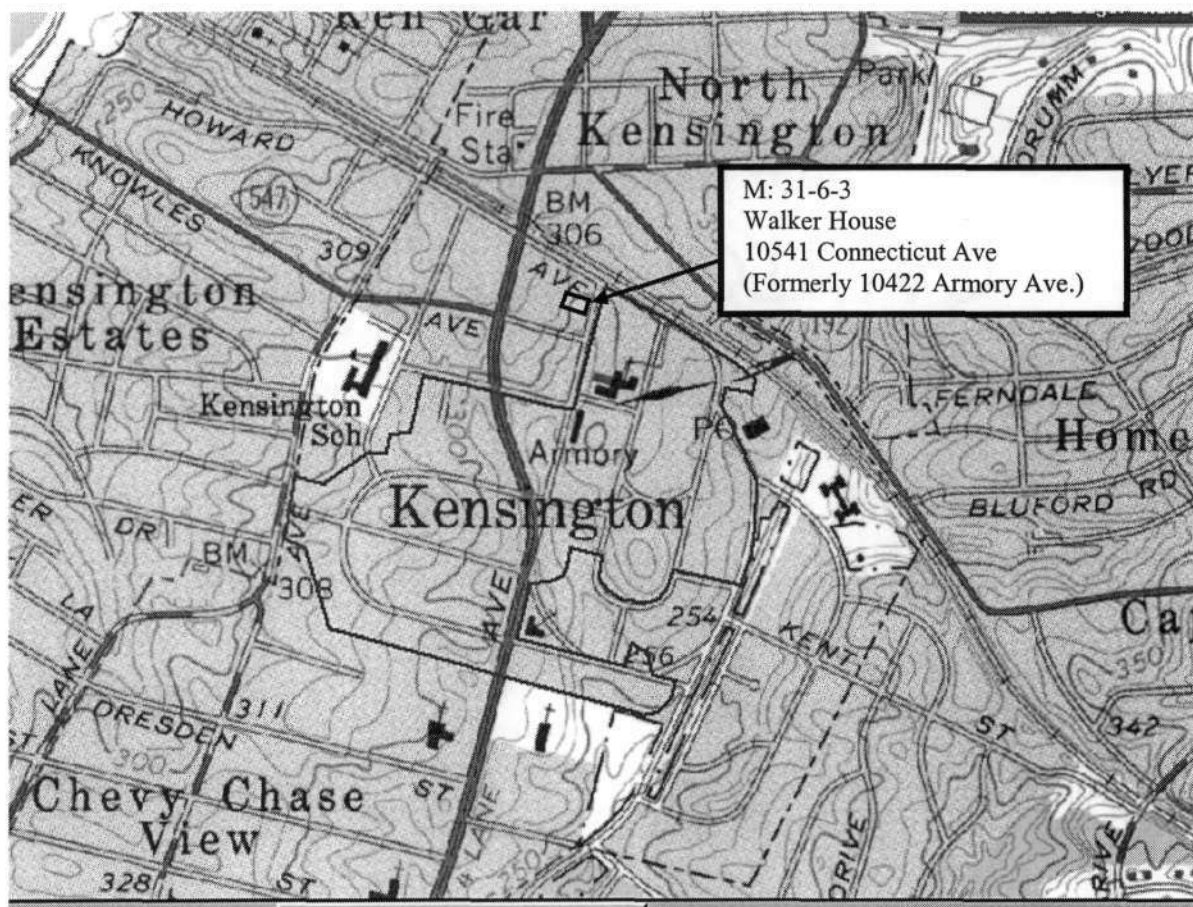
return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Maryland Department of Planning  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

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USGS Kensington Quadrangle

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### THE STRUCTURE

This 2 & 1/2 storey Federal Revival includes a single storey small wing built in 1955 to the left of the front facade containing a single 1/1 shuttered window and low hipped roof. The original exterior walls of horizontal clapboards have been covered with a roll siding material. The roof is wood shake and includes centered shed dormer and chimney flues at each end.

### THE EAST AND FRONT FACADE DESCRIPTION

The main facade has four second floor shuttered 1/1 windows and two first floor 1/1 shuttered windows which are symmetrically placed around the doorway by two columns topped by a wide triangular pediment. This structure is set on a high foundation with the emphasis on the entrance bay in the middle of the house for a classical effect.

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### THE SOUTH SIDE FACADE DESCRIPTION

The south side facade presents a small, one story wing having a single opening of a double window frame with a 1/1 shuttered window.

The second floor of the south side window has two symmetrically placed 1/1 windows each side of the exterior brick chimney.

Two smaller windows hug the chimney stack in the attic gable. The chimneys have both flues and caps.

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THE WEST SIDE FACADE DESCRIPTION

The west side facade and rear of the house has a small, grafted, one storey bump out with a paired, shuttered window protected by a hipped roof.

The first floor of the main structure's west side has an unshuttered double window frame. In the west side's small 1955 attached wing has a 1/1 window, similar in placement to the front facade.

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detail image



detail image



**THE NORTH SIDE FACADE DESCRIPTION**

The north facade is located next to the original, altered, 1906 corner commercial building that was the place of the Walker family business.

The north facade has two unshuttered 1/1 windows on the first floor with a small addition with a hip roof and single pane windows running under the roof line.

The windows placement and treatment is not sympathetic with the style of the house.

The second floor unshuttered 1/1 windows straddle each side of the uncentered brick chimney shaft, and there is one 1/1 window under the attic gable.

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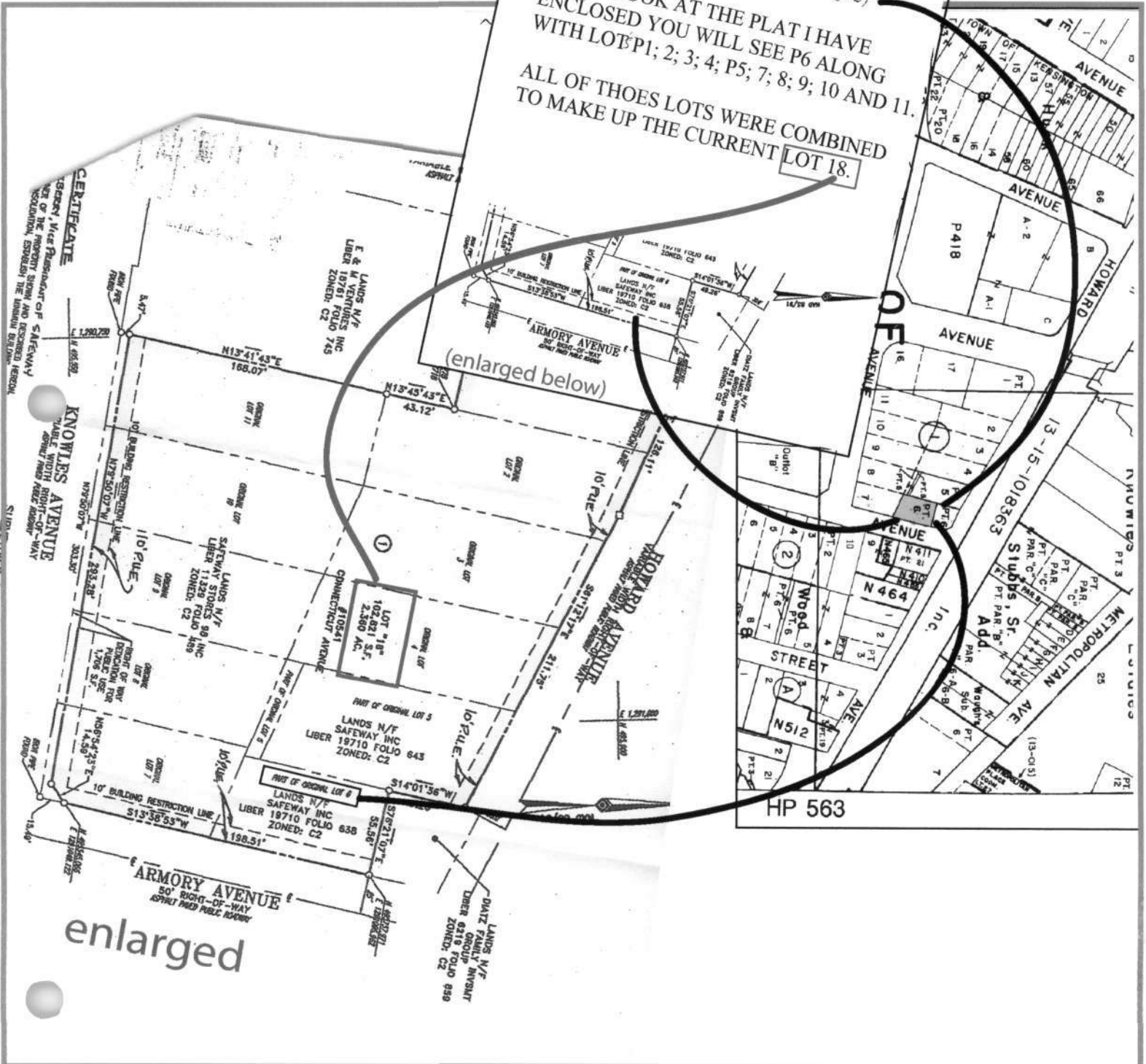
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THE PROPERTY YOU ALL WERE ASKING  
ABOUT WAS ADDRESS 10422 ARMORY  
IT WAS ORIGINALLY LOT P6 (PT.6)  
IF YOU LOOK AT THE PLAT I HAVE  
ENCLOSED YOU WILL SEE P6 ALONG  
WITH LOT P1; 2; 3; 4; P5; 7; 8; 9; 10 AND 11.  
ALL OF THOSE LOTS WERE COMBINED  
TO MAKE UP THE CURRENT LOT 18.



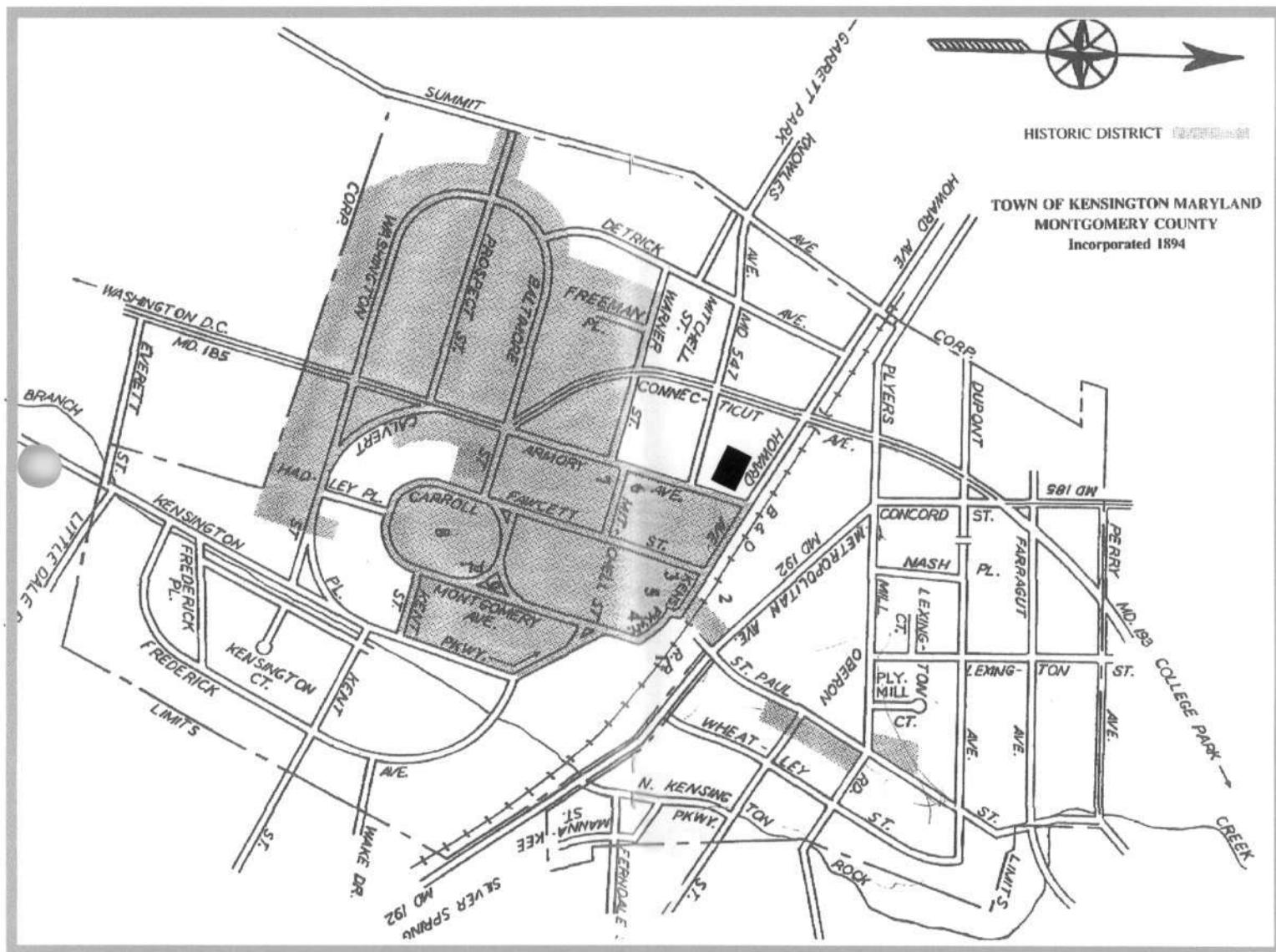
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### KEY:

-  = THE BOUNDARIES OF THE KENSINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICT  
(RELATIONSHIP TO)
-  = THE WALKER HOUSE